

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6295

BILL NUMBER: HB 1070

DATE PREPARED: Nov 13, 1998

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: High School Diplomas, Seals, and Programs of Study.

FISCAL ANALYST: David Hoppmann

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FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (1) This bill would require that the Indiana State Board of Education (the Board) adopt rules to establish, for public and accredited nonpublic high schools, the minimum requirements for a general high school program, a Core 40 high school program, and an Indiana Academic Honors high school program.

(2) It would require that public high schools and accredited nonpublic high schools offer the above programs.

(3) It would require public and accredited nonpublic high schools to award students (who receive a high school diploma) an ISTEP+ diploma seal for receiving a passing score on the ISTEP+ graduation examination, a Core 40 diploma seal for successful completion of the Core 40 high school program, and an Indiana Academic Honors diploma seal for successful completion of the Indiana Academic Honors high school program.

(4) It would allow a school corporation to offer additional locally developed diploma seal programs, and would provide that a student be entitled to receive all diploma seals for which the student qualifies.

Effective Date: July 1, 1999.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (1) Since rules regarding high school curriculum requirements are already in existence, the Board would likely incur minimal costs and time in the adaptation of current rules to satisfy this provision of this bill.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (2) Since current law requires a school corporation to offer a general high school program, and allows a school corporation to offer an Academic Honors Diploma program, the

passage of this portion of the bill would not likely result in additional costs. In addition, since current DOE policy requires a school corporation to offer a CORE 40 curriculum, it is not likely that school corporations would incur increased costs attributable to the CORE 40 requirements of this bill.

Currently, approximately 30 - 40 accredited nonpublic high schools offer CORE 40 and Academic Honors Diploma programs, and approximately 44 accredited nonpublic high schools offer general high school programs.

(3) Under current law, public and accredited nonpublic high schools are not required to affix or imprint seals on a student's high school diploma indicating completion of a specific high school program such as the CORE 40 or Academic Honors program. Nor are public and accredited nonpublic high schools required to affix or imprint an ISTEP+ diploma seal for receiving a passing score on the ISTEP+ graduation examination.

This bill would require public and accredited nonpublic high schools to award students (who receive a high school diploma) a Core 40 diploma seal for successful completion of the Core 40 high school program, an Indiana Academic Honors diploma seal for successful completion of the Indiana Academic Honors high school program, and an ISTEP+ diploma seal for receiving a passing score on the ISTEP+ graduation examination.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Public and accredited nonpublic high schools currently offer Indiana Academic Honors diploma seals to graduating students successfully completing the Indiana Academic Honors program.

The Department of Education currently supplies public and accredited nonpublic high schools with Indiana Academic Honors diploma program seals to affix to a graduating student's regular high school diploma. Monies to pay for the seals are taken from the Center for School Improvement and Performance line-item appropriation.

For FY 1998 and FY 1999, respectively, \$2,722,730 and \$2,725,555 was appropriated to the Department of Education for the Center for School Improvement and Performance.

CORE 40

Public and accredited nonpublic high schools currently offer CORE 40 diploma seals to graduating students successfully completing the CORE 40 high school program.

The Department of Education currently supplies public and accredited nonpublic high schools with CORE 40 high school program seals to affix to a graduating student's regular high school diploma. Monies to pay for the seals are to be taken from the CORE 40 program line-item appropriation with approval from the State Budget Agency.

For FY 1998 and FY 1999, \$824,250 was appropriated to the State Budget Agency, per year, for the CORE 40 program.

ISTEP+ GRADUATION EXAMINATION

Public and nonpublic high schools do not currently offer ISTEP+ graduation examination seals to graduating students who receive a passing score on the ISTEP+ graduation examination.

Passage of this portion of the bill would likely result in an increase in administrative time in carrying out the provisions of this bill. In addition, schools would likely experience a minimal cost relating to the purchase of an instrument to imprint the required seals, or relating to the purchase of the seals themselves (which would likely be more expensive over a fixed period of time).

This bill would not require the Department of Education to defray the cost of ISTEP+ graduation examination seals for public and accredited nonpublic high schools.

The effects of the ISTEP+ portion of the bill would differ from high school to high school, and would depend upon local action.

(4) This bill would allow a school corporation to offer additional locally developed diploma seal programs, and would provide that a student be entitled to receive all diploma seals for which the student qualifies. However, locally developed diploma seal programs would be required to exceed the requirements that the Board establishes for a general high school program in accordance with this bill.

The effects of this portion of the bill would vary from high school to high school, and would depend upon local action.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: State Board of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporation Public High Schools and Nonpublic High Schools.

Information Sources: Patty Shut, Department of Education, 317/232-9184; Sandra Massengale, Department of Education; (317) 232-6987.